

introducing into a plant cell a first recombinant DNA sequence comprising a construct capable of being integrated into the plastid genome of the plant cell, said construct comprising a DNA sequence encoding a selectable marker gene flanked by a pair of compatible recombining sites,

providing a recombinase compatible to said pair of compatible recombining sites to said plant cell to permit excision of said selectable marker gene,

regenerating a transplastomic plant containing said first recombinant DNA sequence without said selectable marker gene from said plant cell, and

introducing a second recombinant DNA sequence comprising a construct capable of being integrated into the plastid genome of the plant cell, said construct comprising a second DNA sequence encoding said selectable marker gene into a plant cell of said transplastomic plant obtained from said regenerated plant.

25. (amended) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said recombinase is provided to said plant cells by introducing a third recombinant DNA sequence comprising in an operably coupled 5' to 3' manner:

a transcriptional initiation region, a plastid targeting region, and a nucleic acid sequence encoding recombinase.

26. (amended) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said construct in said first recombinant DNA sequence further comprises a DNA sequence encoding a gene of interest other than a selectable marker gene outside of said pair of compatible recombining sites.

✓  
Please cancel claim 27.

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28. (amended) The method according to Claim 26, wherein said pair of compatible recombining sites are in directly repeated orientation.

✓  
Please cancel claims 29-31.